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## Message From Your President



I've always believed it's essential in your life to have a passion for something – something that continuously challenges you, takes you out of your comfort zone, and explores those perceived boundaries in your mind. It's this same energy and determination that carries over into all the other activities in your life. I like to think that having a passion for something is the driving force for where your life can lead you.

My passion was born simply by chance way back in 1985 when I agreed to participate in a four-hour raft trip on the Deschutes River in Central Oregon. Twenty-eight years and thousands of river miles later, the lessons I continue to learn from rafting and kayaking are directly applicable into my career and development as a Facilities Professional. I've learned that no matter how many times I have run a particular section of river, there is always a new route to explore or something new to learn. Running rivers has also taught me to recognize what my limitations are and continuously challenge myself to improve my skills. As an added benefit, I have learned how to remain calm under pressure when things don't go quite right! There are no timeouts while in the middle of a rapid. You've got to push through and then evaluate what you need to get it right the next time.

However, I never would have progressed to where I am at with my river running skills or in my career without the guidance I received from my mentors along the way. Their kindness and willingness to share their knowledge to help me improve my skills is what I am most thankful for. I never would have been able to experience rowing a raft on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon for 16 days or become President of the Legal Industry Council without their support and encouragement. It's allowed me to meet some lifelong friends, taken me to some incredible places, and set me on a path of discovery and success.

The Legal Industry Council and a number of our Members have also played a part in my career achievements. As many of you are aware, the Legal Industry Council was the winner of IFMA's 2013 Award of Excellence in Programs and Professional Development. With a new year approaching, we want to continue to provide our Members with opportunities to enhance their career development. I'm pleased to announce the Legal Industry Council will be launching a self-guided SFP study session program early in 2014. The first eight Members who sign up and pass the competency test will be reimbursed \$500 each by the Council to help offset the cost of the SFP program. A number of people have already expressed an interest. If you would like to participate or want additional details, please contact me.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

## World Workplace – Philadelphia

The Council was well represented at IFMA's annual conference this year. In addition to attending educational sessions and business meetings, hosting a council booth and visiting vendor booths, Council members were able to spend time together socializing.



**Front row, L to R**

April Liggons, Fenwick & West LLP Mountain View, CA  
 Mike Lesage, President Stoel Rives LLP Portland, OR  
 Holly Evers, Past President Foley Hoag Boston, MA  
 Joseph Geierman, Vice President Troutman Sanders LLP Atlanta, GA

**Back row, L to R**

Steve Rothmund, Secretary Sidley Austin LLP Chicago, IL  
 Michael Mudd Stoel Rives LLP Portland, OR  
 Carol Monzo Irella & Manella LLP Los Angeles, CA  
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 Kevin Corrigan Levenfeld Pearlstein Chicago, IL  
 Noel McNulty Arnold & Porter LLP San Francisco, CA  
 Gina Lunney Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP Toronto, ON, Canada



**Left to Right:**

Carol Monzo - Irella & Manella  
 Joseph Geierman – Troutman Sanders  
 Angela Chatham – Phelps Dunbar  
 Steve Rothmund – Sidley Austin  
 Holly Evers – Foley Hoag  
 Mike Lesage – Stoel Rives  
 Michael Mudd – Stoel Rives  
 Noel McNulty – Arnold & Porter  
 Ernie Casas – Irella & Manella

A highlight of the conference was receiving



On behalf of the International Facility Management Association and the Awards of Excellence Team, we are pleased to inform you that your nomination has been selected as the winner of the 2013 Council Award of Excellence in Programs and Professional Development.



The award was given largely in recognition of the Council's CFM study group, led by Mike Lesage and Craig Oakman, and the support the Council provided to members who were working toward their CFM certification. The award was accepted by Holly Evers, Past President, who was instrumental in encouraging the Council to apply for the award and in gathering documentation necessary to support our application.

### Award Begins National Tour



After being accepted by Holly in Philadelphia, the Award began its travels to home cities of other LIC Board members.

First stop was to visit LIC President Mike Lesage at Multnomah Falls (611 feet high) in the Columbia River Gorge. It was 15 degrees so the picture was snapped quickly and they headed back to the car. The beauty of the area is just one of the many reasons Mike chooses to live in Oregon.

After lunch with Guest Bob Dickinson and Chicago LIC members Steve Rothmund, Rich Kozlowski, Cindy Dvorak, Doug Domenick, Diane Palumbo, Jeff Schelinski, Jerry DiCola (Chicago Chapter President) and Kevin Corrigan, sightseeing from the skydeck of Willis (formerly Sears) Tower was the perfect way to end a trip to Chicago.

Next stop, Atlanta.



## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**



Donna Abramo is the Director of Human Resources & Operations at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP, a 200 lawyer firm based in New York. Like many of us in Facilities, Donna worked her way up through the ranks over many years with the firm. She started out at Patterson Belknap about 30 years ago as a legal secretary and joined Human Resources in 1989. In 1993, she was selected to be a member of the team leading the firm's move into Patterson Belknap's current office at 1133 Avenue of the Americas, where the firm has remained for 20 years. Donna has been directly involved in office management and operations ever since. She became the firm's Director of Human Resources & Operations in 2003, overseeing not just facilities and operations, but also all human resources issues related to non-legal staff. Patterson Belknap occupies nine floors in its building, totaling approximately 220,000 square feet. The firm is currently undergoing a major renovation in place and restack. Construction began in September of this year and is expected to continue

through 2015. Donna has agreed to share her experiences on the project at one of the Council's upcoming telephone meetings.

### **What is a work related achievement of which you're particularly proud?**

As I'm sure many Council members know, dealing with operations in Manhattan often presents unique challenges. I'm proud of the way my group and the firm has been able to navigate successfully such difficult circumstances as 9/11, the 2003 New York City Blackout and Hurricane Sandy. One specific achievement I'm particularly proud of, however, is that we were able to build out 220,000 sq. ft. in our current space with no change orders. In New York City, that's a big feat.

### **Please tell your fellow Council members something about yourself that would allow us to know you better.**

As I've mentioned, I've been with Patterson Belknap for 30 years. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity for such a rewarding professional life while maintaining a healthy balance in my personal life, spending time with my husband, three adult children and our extended family at our home in New Jersey and at the Jersey Shore in the summer. In addition to IFMA I'm a member of ALA and, CoreNet. I'm also one of the original members of Council having joined at its inception.

## Up Coming Events



Facility Fusion March 18-19 2014  
Ottawa Canada

[CLICK HERE](#) to register



Facility Fusion April 15-17 2014  
Washington, D.C.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register



World Workplace September 17-19 2014  
New Orleans, LA



[CLICK HERE](#) to join the LIC group on Linked In and follow pertinent discussions.

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**About the LIC:** *The Legal Industry council shares information among FMs from law firms and legal departments in corporations, academic institutions and government agencies. Discussions center on topics such as space planning and utilization, creative office services, outsourcing, regulatory information, emerging technology and software solutions.*